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May 23, 1986

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385554

RE: City of Waterville vs.  
County of LeSueur and Department of Natural Resources

Gentlemen:

Bill Clapp and I met with representatives of DNR and PCA on Thursday, May 22, 1986, for about 3 1/2 hours. The conclusion of the meeting was a consensus that the process which should be followed to predict and monitor these facts of the proposed culvert on Lake Tetonka has two stages. First, samples would be taken from test wells at the sewage treatment plant and at the old dump, and samples of water would be taken from the three lakes in questions as well as the ditch. On the basis of the results of the analysis, the samples and modeling, a determination would be made as to what additional monitoring should be done in the future.

The details of this basic framework are as follows:

1. Elysian's Sewage Treatment Plant. The City of Elysian has removed its monitoring devices (lysimeters) from the area adjacent to the sewage treatment plant and the irrigation fields. Thus, additional monitoring devices must be placed immediately by the City. This will require the drilling of monitoring wells between the sewage treatment ponds and the lake and between the spray irrigation fields and the lake. The

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costs of these monitoring wells, and the taking of samples and the testing of samples should be borne by the City of Elysian. Discussions between PCA and the City have already commenced. On the basis of these groundwater tests we should be able to determine whether the present operation of the sewage treatment plant is causing any water quality problems are likely to effect Lake Tustin. That still leaves open the question of whether raising the water level of Lake Tustin by one foot could effect somehow the operation of the sewage treatment plant or the sewage lagoons, but it is my impression that the spray irrigation fields are removed in elevation and distance sufficiently from the lake so that the change in water level elevation on Lake Tustin would not effect the quality of treatment. How can we be assured on that issue?

The Old Elysian Dump. The old city dump was built out into the lake between 1925 and 1971. It was closed in 1971 with cursory inspection by the PCA. Our concern is that agriculture pesticides, waste, oil or other chemicals may have been dumped at that point and may be leaking or about to leak into Lake Tustin. The proposal is that a test boring should be made in the dump site itself, a casing should be placed and samples taken. The samples would then be tested through the DNR laboratory, with outside help if necessary. This would be a DNR expense. The samples taken from the dump would be tested with the full spectrum of water quality tests, including tests for heavy metals, PCBs and volatile organic chemicals. The expense of drilling the well should be borne by the county as the permittee for the culvert. However, the expense could be minimized by using the same drilling rig as would be used by the City of Elysian to drill the monitoring wells at the sewage treatment plant site. On the basis of the test results, a determination would be made as to whether additional and ongoing monitoring would be necessary at the outlet of Lake Tustin.

There are a number of unanswered questions with this proposal. First, much of the old dump site is actually in the lake due to a rise in the water level. Second, drilling a single well would not disclose the presence of waste contained in barrels, and we understand that waste oil barrels were placed in the dump. Third, drilling in the old dump might puncture an old barrel and cause additional problems that don't exist. PCA may have some further advice on this and I will be talking with the site inspection unit people at the Agency. However, the more we learn about this old dump the more serious

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a problem it becomes. My clients tell me they have information that agricultural pesticides were placed in the dump as well.

Testing and Monitoring for Nutrient Loading in Lake Tetonka. The initial testing would be done by the PCA lake unit and the samples could be tested by DNR. Samples will be taken immediately from Lakes Tustin, Francis and Tetonka as well as the wildlife management area and the ditch. These samples will again be tested by the DNR laboratory. They will be tested for total phosphorous, the "nitrogen suite" of elements, BOD, and suspended solids. On the basis of these samples and the hydrologic information to be provided by DNR, the lake assessment unit of the PCA will prepare a model to predict the nutrient loading which may be expected to occur as a result of the installation of a culvert. On the basis of that information, the parties will then determine what additional monitoring, if any, will be necessary to check on the impacts of the culvert on Lake Tetonka.

It is hoped that all of these tests can be done and examined prior to the June 3 date. However, the time frame is obviously quite short and if it is not possible to do that, I would hope that the parties would agree to a very short extension of time.

Regarding the question of water levels, I have not talked with Tom Kraus about that and presumably the City of Waterville will have a proposal on that issue.

I expect to be in contact with all of you on Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. via a telephone conference call to be set up by Bill Clapp.

Very truly yours,

PEPIN DAYTON HERMAN GRAHAM  
& GETTS, P.A.

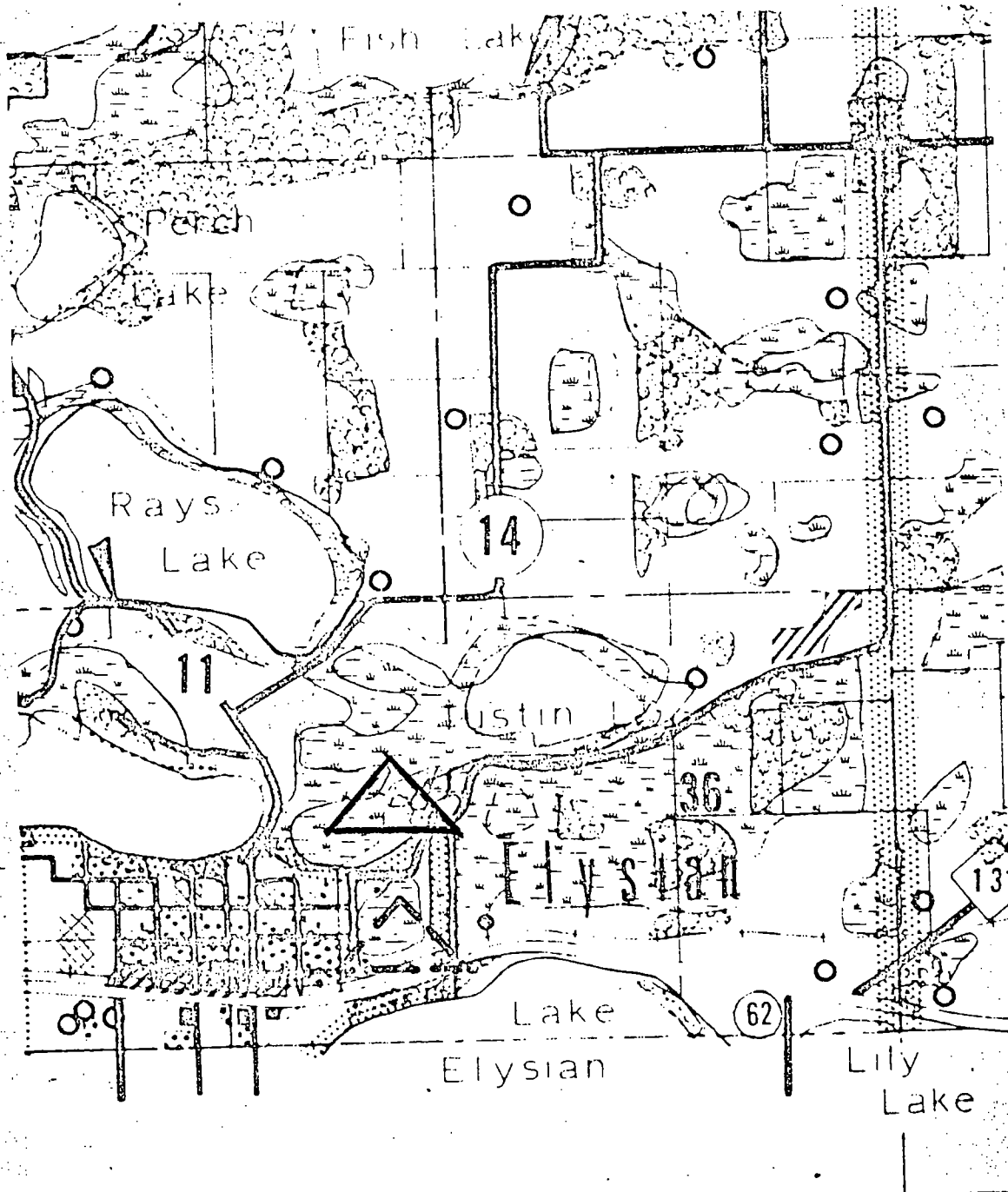
Charles K. Dayton

CKD/mel

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Dr. Ted Stransky  
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# EXISTING LAND USE

## ELYSIAN VILLAGE



REFUSE DUMP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

SANITARY LANDFILL



PLATE